

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

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O R 100300Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3406

INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMIPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION IN NORTHERN MR 2

FOLLOWING TEL RECEIVED FROM NHA TRANG MAR 8 SENT ACTION

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE INFO USDAO SAIGON H/W

REPEATED TO YOU. QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION IN NORTHERN MR-2

REF: NHA TRANG 0135, 7 MARCH 197.

1. HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUED IN NORTHERN MR-2 ON MARCH 7. QL-19
IN BINH KHE DISTRICT IN BINH DINH AND IN EASTERN LE TRUNG DISTRICT
IN PLEIKU, AND QL-21 IN KHANH DUONG DISTRICT IN KHANH HOA REMAINED
INTERDICTED. IN ADDITION, NEW INFORMATION INDICATES THAT QL-14
BETWEEN PLEIKU AND BAN ME THUOT HAS BEEN CUT. THE LATEST INFOR-
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MATION ON THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THESE AREAS FOLLLS.

2. IN BINH DINH ON MARCH 7, THERE WAS ONE COMMUNIST SHELLING AND TWO GROUND CONTACTS NEAR QL-19 EAST OF BINH KHE DISTRICT TOWN, REPORTEDLY RESULTING IN 1 GVN SOLDIER KIA, 2 CIVILIANS WIA, 8 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS KIA, AND 3 AKS SEIZED BY THE GVN. ALONG QL-19 WEST OF BINH KHE DISTRICT TOWN, THERE WAS ALSO ONE COMMUNIST SHELLING AND 2 GROUND ATTACKS, REPORTEDLY RESULTING IN 1 GVN SOLDIER KIA, 7 GVN SOLDIERS WOUNDED, 3 M-16S LOST, AND 2 COMMUNISTS KIA. ALSO, TAM QUAN, PHU MY, AND BINH KHE SUBSECTOR HQS ALL TOOK COMMUNIST ORDNANCE SUSTAINING LIGHT DAMAGE BUT NO CASUALTIES, AND THERE WAS SCATTERED FIGHTING IN BOTH TAM QUAN AND PHU MY DISTRICTS. FINALLY, AT 080540 HRS, 5 ROUNDS OF 107 MM ROCKET HIT PHU CAT AIRBASE WOUNDING 5 AIRMEN AND CAUSING SOME MATERIEL DAMAGE.

3. IN PLEIKU, FIGHTING PERSISTED IN EASTERN LE TRUNG DISTRICT NEAR QL-19. AS A RESULT OF COMMUNIST SHELLINGS AND GROUND ATTACKS IN THE AREA BETWEEN FSBS 93 (BR 039450) AND 94 (BF 135539) - THE FOCAL POINT OF ACTIVITY IN LE TRUNG DISTRICT - THE GVN SUSTAINED 1 KIA AND 9 WIA, AND HAD 2 APCs DAMAGED AND 1 57MM RECOILLESS RIFLE DAMAGED (COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE NOT REPORTED). REPORTEDLY, FSB 93 IS NOW BEING SHELLED BY A 155MM HOWITZER CAPTURED EARLIER BY THE COMMUNISTS AT FSB 94. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, CAMP PLEI MRONG (ZA 1267) TOOK 60 82MM MORTAR SHELLS AND THEN WAS ATTACKED BY COMMUNIST TROOPS. THE 3 COMPANIES OF THE 278TH RF BN THAT WERE DEFENDING THE CAMP TOOK 1 KIA AND 7 WIA (COMMUNIST CASUALTIES WERE NOT REPORTED). AND IN PHU NHON DISTRICT, A LATE REPORT JUST RECEIVED STATES THAT A CONVOY CARRYING THE 2ND BN OF THE 45TH ARVN REGT TO BAN ME THUOT WAS AMBUSHED AT AQ 920720 AT 051815 HRS, RESULTING IN 23 ARVN MIA, SEVERAL PIECES OF ARTILLERY AND NUMEROUS SMALL ARMS LOST, AND 5 TRUCKS BURNED. QL-14 IS NOW EFFECTIVELY CUT IN THAT AREA. REPORTEDLY FSB 41 LOCATED BETWEEN PLEIKU AND KONTUM CITIES ON QL-14 HAS ALSO TAKEN INCOMING.

4. IN PHU BON, THUAN MAN DISTRICT TOWN TOOK INCOMING ORDNANCE AT APPROXIMATELY 080700 HRS; RADIO CONTACT WITH THE TOWN, WHICH IS REPORTED TO BE BURNING, HAS BEEN LOST. ACCORDING TO DAO PLEIKU, THE HQS CO. OF THE 23RD DIV AND THE 23RD RECON CO ARE PRESENTLY LOCATED IN THUAN MAN. REPORTEDLY ONE OTHER UNSPECIFIED DISTRICT TOWN IN PHU BON HAS ALSO TAKEN INCOMING ORDNANCE.

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5. IN BUON HO DISTRICT, DARLAC, TWO GROUND CONTACTS TOOK PLACE ON MAR 7. FROM 0630 HRS TO 0740 HRS, AN ESTIMATED COMMUNIST COMPANY ATTACKED OUTPOST 72 (BQ 003536) MANNED BY THE 1ST CO OF THE 257TH RF BN. THE BN SUSTAINED 13 MIA AND 3 WIA, AND LOST 1 MORTAR, ONE MACHINE GUN, 21 SMALL ARMS, AND 2 SIGNAL RADIOS. AND AT 1805 HRS, AT AQ 985425, A SUBSECTOR INTELLIGENCE UNIT CLASHED WITH A COMMUNIST UNIT KILLING 2 COMMUNIST AND SEIZING ONE AK.

6. IN KHANH HOA, HEAVY FIGHTING PERSISTS IN THE AREA BETWEEN BRIDGES
25 (BQ 522122) AND 31 (BQ 419165). THUS FAR GVN FORCES THERE HAVE
HAD 199 SOLDIERS KIA OR MIA, AND 79 WIA. BRIDGE 29, LOCATED ON QL-21
BETWEEN BRIDGES 25 AND 31, HAS NOW BEEN DESTROYED. SPEAR UNQTE
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